AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions.

1.-22. (Canceled)

- 23. (Currently Amended) A method of increasing tissue volume in a subject, said method comprising injecting a composition, said composition comprising microparticles of cross-linked alginate, wherein said microparticles of alginate are fully-crosslinked with a divalent or polyvalent cation, and wherein said alginate, prior to said crosslinking, has a molecular weight of between about 100kDa and about 1200kDa, and wherein the injection of the composition increases the tissue volume after injection.
- (Canceled)
- 25. (Canceled)
- (Canceled)
- 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said tissue is skin.
- 28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said tissue is muscle tissue.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said muscle tissue is a sphincter muscle.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the sphincter muscle is the lower esophageal sphincter muscle.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the sphincter muscle is the inner sphincter muscle of the bladder.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said composition comprises potassium or sodium alginate.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said divalent or polyvalent cation is barium.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said microparticles of alginate are crosslinked with barium and at least one additional cation.

- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said at least one additional cation is calcium
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said divalent or polyvalent cation is calcium.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said microparticles of alginate are crosslinked with calcium and at least one additional cation
- 38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said composition further comprises at least one additional compound selected from the group consisting of vitamins, adhesion proteins, anti-inflammatory substances, antibiotics, growth factors, hormones, nutrients, and cells.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 or 33, wherein the composition further comprises a pharmaceutical carrier.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 or 33, wherein the diameter of said microparticles is from about 20 to about 2000μm.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising injecting at least one solution selected from the group consisting of a citrate solution and a solution of a complexing agent.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said alginate is present in solution at a concentration of about 0.1% to about 4% (w/v).
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said composition further comprises a physiological carrier.
- 44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said alginate is crosslinked in situ, said in situ crosslinking comprising injecting a solution comprising barium or calcium salt at said injection site.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein said crosslinking solution is coinjected with said alginate composition.

- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein said crosslinking solution is injected after said alginate composition is injected.
- 47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said alginate solution further comprises D-glucono-δ-lactone and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of barium carbonate and calcium carbonate.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising injecting EDTA or citrate solution after said injection of said alginate composition.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the solution of a complexing agent comprises EDTA.